

# John William Chaffee

**Distinguished Service Professor of History and Asian and Asian American Studies  
Director, Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas**

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I am a Chinese historian with a research focus on the social and institutional history of the Song Dynasty (960-1279 CE). My undergraduate courses include a survey of East Asia, a year-long history of China, and a history of Sino-European interactions from 1200 to 1945. My graduate seminars (often cross-listed as senior seminars) deal with maritime Asia, East Asian imperialism, and the history of Chinese women, and I work individually with graduate students in Chinese history on their own research areas. My past research undertakings have focused upon the educational and examination systems of the Song, and the Song imperial clan, and more recently Chinese maritime history.

## Honors

- Ronald G. Knapp Award for Distinguished Service to Asian Studies in New York, 2017.
- University Award for Excellence in International Education, Binghamton University, 2004.
- Exemplary Contributions to Research Award, State University of New York, 2002.

## Books

- *Muslim Merchants of Pre-Modern China: The Social History of a Trade Diaspora* (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, in press).
- *The Cambridge History of China, Volume 5, Part 2: The Five Dynasties and Sung China, 960-1279*, co-edited with Denis Twitchett (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015).
- *The Branches of Heaven: A History of the Sung Imperial Clan* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999).

- *Tianheng guizhou : Songdai zongshi shi* [Chinese translation of *The Branches of Heaven*], Zhao Dongmei, trans. (Nanjing : Jiangsu renmin chubanshe, 2006).
- *The Thorny Gates of Learning in Sung China: A Social History of Examinations* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985; second edition with a new preface, Albany: State University of New York Press, 1995).
  - *Paeumui Kasipat'kil: Songtae Chungkukinui Kwak saenghwal* [Korean translation of *The Thorny Gates*], Chong Kuk Yang, trans. Seoul, 2000.
  - *Sung-tai k'o-chü* [Chinese translation of *The Thorny Gates*] (Taipei: San Min Book Company, 1995).
- *Neo-Confucian Education: The Formative Stage*, coedited with Wm. Theodore de Bary (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989).

## Grants and Fellowships

- University Award for Excellence in International Education, Binghamton University, 2004.
- Freeman Foundation Grant (project director), 2002-6
- American Philosophical Society, 1996
- U.S. Department of Education Grant (project director), 1987-9
- Japan Foundation Grant (project director), 1987-1990
- American Council of Learned Societies, 1986-7
- National Endowment for the Humanities, 1985

## Professional Activities

- Program Co-chair, Conference on “Mobile Bodies: A Long View of the Peoples and Communities of Maritime Asia,” Binghamton University, November 2017.
- Chair, Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, 2008-9.
- Director, Asian and Asian American Studies Program, 2000-8.
- Board member, Confucius Institute of Chinese Opera at Binghamton University, 2009-
- Program Chair, Workshop on “Eurasian Influences on Yuan China,” Binghamton University, November 2009.
- Program Chair, Conference on “The Problem of Asia in Russia and Turkey,” April 2009.

- Steering Committee Chair, annual meetings of the New York Conference on Asian Studies, Binghamton, October 26-27, 2007.
- Program Chair, Asian Migrations Conference, Binghamton, March 20-21, 2006.
- Program Chair, Paradigms in History: Global Studies and World History. A Conversation in the Discipline of the State University of New York at Binghamton University, March 3-4, 2000.
- Elected member, Council on Conferences, Association for Asian Studies, 1999-2002, Chair, 2001-2.
- Member, Executive Board, Association for Asian Studies, 2001-2002.
- President, New York Conference on Asian Studies, 2001-4; Executive Board, 1998-2001, 2005-2007.
- Chair, Department of History, 1992-2000.
- Program Chair, New York Conference on Asian Studies annual meetings in Binghamton, fall 1997.
- Editor, *Bulletin of Sung-Yuan Studies*, 1987-91.